THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) As per information received from Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA), in all 26,700 tickets were printed (total capacity of the Stadium is 28,000). Out of which hundreds of tickets remained unsold in the branches of the Canara Bank. Till date DDCA has received complaints from three persons pertaining to seven tickets and DDCA is processing these complaints for settlement.

New Sports Policy

†1062. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have formulated any new sports policy and whether this policy would explore the talents in rural and urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of activities likely to be promoted by this new policy and the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay and by when the same is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The National Sports Policy, 2001 formulated and announced recently, accords a high priority to the development of sports throughout the country to harness the available talent and potential. In this context, the sports policy lays down that the village

†. Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Panchayats/Gaon Sabhas as well as rural Youth and Sports clubs will be mobilized to facilitate development of the requisite infrastructure and for the identification of talent through and appropriate competition structure in the rural areas as also in the disadvantaged and remote parts of the country including the North East which appear to merit special consideration under various schemes. The available talent will be nourished and actively supported. Geographically disadvantaged regions will be extended additional support for the promotion of sports.

Broad-basing of sports and promoting excellence have been emphasized in the National Sports Policy. Efforts will be made to ensure that schools and colleges in both urban and rural areas, local bodies, sports associations, youth and sports clubs and industry are fully associated with this programme. A detailed action plan is being formulated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports in this regard to facilitate implementation of this policy.

BCCI Dispute with ICC

1063. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the case of BCCI pending with ICC;

(b) what is Government's reaction with regard to the stand taken by the BCCI against the orders of ICC; and

(c) what steps are being taken to protect the self respect of the country, the interest of our players and the game as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The information is being collected from the BCCI and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c): The Government has no role to play in this regard and it considers that this issue is required to be sorted out by the Cricket Baords of the concerned countries and ICC.